

# KANSAS AGITATOR.

Devoted to the Interests of

## THE MASSES.

A Wide-Awake Advocate of All of the Reforms of the Day.

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### Co-Operation.

THE AGITATOR is here in behalf of a free American people. It is here to agitate and enter its protest against all the powers that be, which are seeking to override the moral, social and financial rights of the people. For this purpose and for this alone, THE AGITATOR is here. Now friends, we need your influence and co-operation in extending the work, by sending us subscriptions, for which you will have our thanks. The people are now listening and ready to hear and learn the way in which they are to rescue themselves and their children from the thralldom of oppression. It's LIVING issues the people are now beginning to look after, not dead ones.

### Funston on the Stump.

The following is a copy of the little speeches that Funston is now making to the farmers of the Second district: Committee on agriculture, House of Representatives, U. S. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 19, 1890.

Mr.

Dear Sir:

I see that your primaries are to be held on Saturday, 26th of this month.

I want to thank you for the support you have so kindly given me in the past, and now if you can go to the primary and give me another lift, I will be under additional obligations to you.

With best wishes I am

Truly yours,

E. H. FUNSTON.

These are short, spicy little speeches, chock-full of old party policies, as defined by Ingalls.

MARK the men in congress who oppose the free coinage of silver. They are the tools of the Shylocks and money sharks, the puppets of Wall street. The bankers want less money and more misery for the people, that they may have people more under their control. The bankers want the volume of currency kept as small as possible, for that is in their interest. When there is little money, more borrowing must be done, and the banker is in clover. As the currency is the more plenty the banker becomes less the master and more the servant of the people. So we say, note well the congressional opponents of free silver. Mark them well, that they may be taught the power of the people at the approaching election.—Independent Citizen, Albany, N. Y.

Yes, let them be marked and then let the people everlastingly down them at the ballot box. The people asked for free coinage and got a limited coinage. The people's interests were ignored for the interests of Wall street—don't you see?

WHEN we enlist in a new political organization, let it be for the sake of the principles it advocates and not for its party name, and then let the office seek the man in the party.

THE Garnett Plaindealer in a recent issue gets off a lot of gibberish about the F. M. B. A. going into politics, and seeks to give the impression that the order is going to pieces, because many of its members are going into the People's party; and there is no doubt that the Plaindealer would rejoice if such was the case, for nothing would please the ringster better than to see the labor organizations disband, and every effort will be put forth by the people's enemies to produce dissension and disorganization. If the editor of the Plaindealer was not stupid, he could see that if the F. M. B. A. principles are broad enough to admit Democrats, Republicans, Prohibitionists and Union Labor voters, they would be broad and liberal enough to permit the same voters to go into another organization. If any member of the F. M. B. A. is leaving the order on account of the People's movement (as the Plaindealer claims, and which we doubt), they are men who joined under the direction of the ring bosses, and for the purpose of sowing dissension. Doubtless there are good, true men—farmers—members of the order—who are not yet prepared to vote the People's ticket; but the time has gone by when intelligent farmers cannot see that self-preservation depends upon organization; and we do not hesitate to predict that some time in the near future, farmers will vote as one man. Organization, education, united action—these three—belong to each other; and while some farmers are not yet satisfied that in the People's party is the place for united action, yet they cannot fail to see that the farmers cannot come together in either of the old political parties; so that if the farmers are ever going to vote together, it will be within a new party. No intelligent farmer now claims that farmers should vote for divers principles.

THE Garnett Eagle in a recent issue says that the farmers have had a majority in the house in our state legislature, which is true, but these farmer representatives were named by the rings, and if they showed any disposition to act independent of the rings they were sat down on. A lawyer senate has controlled legislation in this state for the last twenty years at least, and any measure passed by the house not acceptable to the senate has invariably been either crippled or killed by that body, so that it may be finally claimed that a house of farmers named by the rings is of no use to farmers, when the senate is made up of lawyers. It has been the policy of the rings and corporations to keep the senate, both state and national, well filled with lawyers, so that through them legislation favorable to their interests might be secured, and time has shown the wisdom of the corporations. The power that was weak in the beginning, and that at first only sought to control one branch of our legislative bodies, has, emboldened by success, gained control of all three departments of our government. To-day both branches of congress, the president and supreme court are the willing tools of money power, and what is true of the nation is true in most of the states.

THE ring papers (including the R. P., of Garnett,) are giving the F. M. B. A. a lot of gratuitous advice, the burden of which is, "Don't go into politics"; but when it is considered that the ring papers and editors are owned by monopoly, any advice from that source must be received with a good deal of allowance. The monopolistic and plutocratic press is about as fond of a farmer as the devil is of a saint. Any pretense of love from the old party ring sources is an insult to intelligent farmers, and any pretense of interest in the welfare of either farmers or laborers is the barest kind of hypocrisy. In war, a skilled general will do what his antagonist does not wish him to do. The principle is good in politics. Who but the politician, the office-holder and the office-seeker, and the stupidly-partisan among farmers, is fighting the people's movement? There are no others. Who says the people's movement is unwise but the enemy of the people? No movement in all history was so much needed, or promised so much, as the people's movement. The people will move on, in spite of ring papers, in spite of plutocrats, in spite of any or all of the enemies of labor. To pause or turn back now is madness. The line is drawn. On one side are those who believe that labor should have its full reward—that men who produce wealth should own wealth. On the other side of the line are those who believe in present systems and conditions. They who are not for the masses are against them.

It is remarkable and worthy of attention that the men who do not want the common people to go into politics are the men, or classes, who are, and have been, in politics. Facts show that the parties who are in politics have been well paid. The lawyer went into politics, and has as his reward about all the fat offices. National bondholders and bankers went into politics and have as their reward \$600,000,000 interest, control of the volume of currency and a dollar that has appreciated almost one hundred per cent. Railroad companies went into politics and have as their reward 220,000,000 acres of land, a loan of \$130,000,000 that will never be paid, and laws that protect them in robbing the people to the utmost limit of what the traffic will bear. Mine owners, manufacturers and lumbermen went into politics, and under the plea of protective tariff have amassed princely fortunes. Dealers in futures, trusts and combines went into politics and no law can be passed that will prohibit unblushing and wicked robbery of the poor. Beer brewers and distillers went into politics, and so great is their influence that they frequently name both men and platforms. These are the classes who, through the paid press, advise the common people to stay out of politics. But if being in politics pays such dividends to non-producing classes, why will politics injure the producing classes? By not being in politics the farmer is dispossessed of seven-tenths of what he produces, and his children are insufficiently

clothed, the miner sits down to a meal of mush and water, and thousands of operatives are without a job and starving.

### Morality in Politics.

We notice that when Webster compiled his dictionary, it was understood that there was morality in politics, for he said, politics is that part of either 'morality' which has to do with the regulation and government of a nation or state, the protection of its citizens in their rights, with the preservation and improvement of their morals.

We also notice that it was so understood by our statesmen, or fathers of our country. Charles Sumner said when in the height of his power. "Politics is but the application of morals to the administration of public affairs." Walter Mills in the "Science of Politics" says that christianity as a code of morals touches every relation in life, and determines every duty. It is itself the law of duty; it is a part of the common law of our land. And to say that a man can do his duty as a citizen, and ignore that phase of religion which treats of duty to his fellow men, is to say that a man is to do his duty while he ignores the only standard by which he is to determine what duty is. A religion which a believer can ignore when he is engaged in the performance of his political duties must be a religion without morality (rather an immoral religion). Sound morals is the master of all proper politics, and he who would ignore its claims in public matters is sound neither in his politics or his morals. Divine authority teaches us that the immediate and proper end of all civil power is, that the good of the commonwealth may be provided for, their temporal safety and civil rights secured upon the footing of the moral law. Hence we assert that any law or creed of politics that sets aside the moral law is a nullity and ceases to be either law or politics.

The question now is, have we politics as defined by Webster under the present dispensation of politics as expounded and practiced by old partyism in our country at this time? If not, then it is high time for us as a civilized people to be getting back to the politics of our country's fathers. Now then let us notice some of the declarations and practices of old partyism or demagoguism. First we notice the declaration of John J. Ingalls, who declares that:

"The purification of politics is an iridescent dream. Government is force. Politics is a battle for supremacy. Parties are the armies. The decalogue and the golden rule have no place in a political campaign. The object is success. To defeat the antagonist and expel the party in power is the purpose. . . . This modern cant about the corruption of politics is fatiguing in the extreme."

This is the declaration of an old party leader who has served both the old parties as an expounder. He is one of the men that now sits in the United States senate to enact laws by which a free people are to be governed. He it is who says government is force; politics is a battle for supremacy. He it is who says the decalogue and golden rule have no place in a political campaign. He it is who gives the key-note that is sounded all along the line of the old party press, that morality is non-politic. He, and such as he, are the campaign orators who tell the people that morality has no place in politics, and for the people to lay their religion on the shelf until the